

Discovery of a new site for the White-mantled Wainscot *Archanara neurica* (Hb.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Suffolk

The Suffolk Moth Group (SMG) and Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation (SBBC) in recent years have been carrying out surveys to bring up to date records the records of White-mantled Wainscot *Archanara neurica* at known sites. In addition to monitoring work carried out at known locations, the SMG held a meeting at Benacre Broad in 2002 to determine if the species was present at this site. The site seemed a likely place for the species to occur as the preferred habitat of dry reed-beds was present in this area of extensive reed-beds. Lights were operated at the inland end of the broad covering the drier areas of the reed-bed; two examples of *A. neurica* were recorded during the evening. This would appear to be a new location for the species, extending its known northerly range within the county.

The following is a summary of recent records for *A. neurica* that are held in the Suffolk county moth record database.

Site	Date	Recorder(s)	OS Grid reference
Benacre Broad	2nd Aug 2002	SMG	TM5182
Walberswick	3rd Aug 2001	SMG	TM4873
Westwood Marshes	27th Jul 2001	SMG	TM4772
Dunwich	1996	Rafe Eley	TM4770
Dunwich Heath	11th Aug 2000	SMG	TM4767
Minsmere	11th Aug 2001	SBBC	TM4767
Minsmere	29th Jul 2000	SMG	TM4666
Minsmere	25th Jul 1997	John Chainey	TM4667
Darsham Marshes	3rd Aug 1990	Arthur Watchman	TM4268
North Warren, Thorpeness	26th Jul 2002	SMG	TM4659

The known range of the moth in the county runs from Thorpeness in the south to Benacre Broad in the north and it has been recorded from all the major coastal reed-beds between Thorpeness and Walberswick. Between Walberswick and Benacre Broad lie further reed-beds, but these have not yet been surveyed by the SMG or SBBC. If anyone has any records for these areas I would be grateful to receive them. The record for Darsham Marshes is interesting as it is more than six kilometres inland from the nearest known site on the coast and is not in an area containing extensive reed-beds. This is the only inland record that we have for the species despite this being a relatively well-recorded area of the county.— TONY PRICHARD, 3 Powling Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9JR (E-mail : tony.prichard@btinternet.com).